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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY

USSR

SUBJECT

Kabardino

Nalchik,

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SUPP. TO  
REPORT NO.

1. NALCHIK, capital of the Kabardino Balkar ASSR (Caucasus), USSR

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50X1-HUM

SECURITY INFORMATION

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50X1-HUM

- 2 -

50X1-HUM

All the streets in Malchik were paved with cobblestones, except Kabardinskaya Ulitsa, which was surfaced with asphalt.

The majority of buildings are constructed of red brick.

more and more buildings were constructed of gray rock blocks, the dimensions of which were approximately two by three feet. The highest building in Malchik is four stories. It is a government office building. The only buildings that are over one story are government owned. Only the newest buildings have basements. Residences are usually constructed of red brick and are quite small, one story structures. Roofs of buildings in Malchik are mostly of red tile. Some of the older buildings have corrugated metal roofs. These are painted red, gray, or silver.

- (a) Kabardinskaya Ulitsa - the business district extends from the park to almost mid-way of the city. The remaining half of this street is composed of one-story residences.
- (b) Respublikanskaya Ulitsa - a main thoroughfare, but only two cars wide. It is composed mainly of one-story residences. However, there are some schools and other government buildings located on it.
- (c) Stennaya Ulitsa - the west half of this street is devoted to office buildings and the other half to residential structures.

There was no major damage in Malchik up to November 1942. Only several minor buildings were demolished: two residential houses next to the railroad station and a minor building two miles west of the city.

There were approximately four cement sport statues located at the entrance to the sports stadium, which was located near the northeastern section of the park. The stadium had three rows of benches, seating about 750. Directly in front of the large hotel, near the sports stadium, were about six sport statues. In the center of the park there is a statue of Lenin. It is made of white marble and is approximately 12 feet tall. He is standing and his hand is outstretched to the east. There are many other sport statues situated throughout the park. There is also a 12 ft cement statue of Stalin standing in full military uniform in a typical Napoleonic pose, at the Pedagogical Institute.

#### Population

Approximately 25,000 as of November 1942.

the population has probably decreased. much of the population of Malchik had been transferred to Siberia.

The majority of the population is Mohammedan. The population is made up of Cherkess, Kabardiners, and Balkarians. Cherkess and Kabardiners are actually one and the same nationality. They both use the Cherkess language. Balkarians have a different language, but are also Mohammedans.

Cherkess, Kabardiners and Balkarians form about 60 percent of the population. Approximately 15 percent are Jewish, referred to in Malchik as "mountain Jews". They do not resemble the common Jew. They have a very dark complexion and could almost pass for gypsies. About 25% of the population are Orthodox Russians. Because of the religion and the history of Caucasians, the people are very anti-Russian. They live quite

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SECRET/US OFFICIALS ONLY/SECURITY INFORMATION

- 3 -

50X1-HUM

50X1-HUM

peaceably with the Jews. These Jews work hard and seem to mind their own business. When the Germans occupied Nalchik, they wanted to shoot all the Jewish population. The Caucasians warned them that this act would bring down the wrath of the Caucasian people and the Jews were, therefore, spared.

The only foreigners that lived in the city were German students. When World War II broke out with Germany, they were arrested and sent to Central Asia.

they were followed constantly, especially during the last five years before the war.

#### Government and Administration

there was a complete turnover in the late 1930's. up to that year, Communist Party Secretary for the Kabardino Balkar Autonomous Republic was Setal Kalmikov. Nalchik is the capital of this Republic. Kalmikov was a Kabardinetz and an old-time Communist who lived on Number 5 (?) Kabardinskaya Ulitsa. Kalmikov was arrested with all his subordinates in about 1937, accused of being a nationalist and plotting with Germany to separate the Caucasus from the USSR. Rumors had it that Yezhov, then head of the NKVD, came down personally to purge Kalmikov, and Andreev, now on the Politburo of the USSR, did come to Nalchik in connection with the removal of Kalmikov. Practically all government officials of any importance were changed at that time.

- (a) The NKVD in Nalchik was located on Respublikanskaya Ulitsa in about the third or fourth block east of the park. The building was of two storeis, not large, of white brick, and had a yard in the back with underground cells used to house political prisoners. The building had large iron gates.
- (b) The Prokuratura i Vyrkhovni Sud (the Prosecutor's Office and the Supreme Court) for the Autonomous Republic was located on Kabardinskaya Ulitsa about four blocks east of the park. The city courts were located about two blocks east of the Supreme Court, on the same side of the same street.
- (c) The Dom Gorodskovo Soveta (City Soviet), was located on Kabardinskaya Ulitsa, four blocks east of the park. It was a two-story white brick structure.
- (d) The headquarters building of the Communist Party of the Autonomous Republic was on the south side of Kabardinskaya Ulitsa, one block east of the park.
- (e) A government building of four story brick, painted green, housed the various People's Commissariats of the Autonomous Republic. It was located on Stepnaya Ulitsa next to the park and the square. Some of the offices which it contained were:
  - (1) Oblastnoi Ispolnitelnyi Komitet which [redacted] was the chief committee for the Republic.
  - (2) Narodni Komissariat Prosveteniya (the People's Commissariat for Education).
  - (3) Narodni Komissariat Promishlenosti (Industry)
  - (4) Otdel Kadrov i Profsoyuzov (the labor and labor union office which gave out the Trudovi Knizhki - work books).
  - (5) Narodni Komissariat Zdorovo Otkhraneniya (for Health)
  - (6) Narodni Komissariat Finansov (Finance Ministry)
  - (7) There were also other offices in the building [redacted]
- (f) The Pasportni Otdel was located on Kabardinskaya Ulitsa.
- (g) The Sluzhba Vnutrini Bezopasnosti, or Otdel Militii, was located, also on Kabardinskaya Ulitsa. [redacted] this was the local police.

- (a) The secret service headquarters, or Sekretnyi Otdel NKVD, was [redacted] located in the NKVD building. For police stations and barracks, see 14 g. Some of the police personnel lived in this office building, some in private homes. Nalchik

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prisons consisted of the NKVD's underground cells for political prisoners and the Ben M. Kuchonikh, for criminal convicts. The latter structure was on the banks of the Malchik River and extended about one block in length.

- (b) There were no PW's in Malchik as of November 1942. However, there were some conscript labor camps in the area surrounding Malchik. These camps were used to house criminal prisoners. One of these camps was located in the woods about five or six miles southwest of Malchik, near the small village of Hassnii. About 100 prisoners were confined there and lived in dugouts. They were used for lumber work. At the Volodimirovaya Fabrika, which made bricks and was located at Kenje, about three miles west of Malchik, there was a small barracks which housed about 50 prisoners. Approximately 350 criminal prisoners were housed in dugouts in Baksan, about 10 miles north of Malchik. These convicts worked in mines, some of which were gold mines.

50X1-HUM

In regard to the policing of Malchik, most of the police were concentrated around various government buildings in the city, which were found primarily in the western part of Malchik. There were also special railroad station police who patrolled two or three together at a time. In front of each government building, one policeman was usually stationed. Quite a few policemen were to be seen on the main street. A policeman's beat consisted of five blocks. There was no curfew until June 1941, but after the German attack, a curfew of 9 or 10 pm was instituted.

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#### Transportation and Economy

There was one railroad station on the east outskirts of Malchik. See Enclosure (A)7. It was a one-story building of white brick with a metal roof painted green. Malchik was about 20 kilometers west from the main railroad line running north from Moscow through Rostov to Ordzhonikidze, Tiflis, and Baku. A one track, wide-gauge, branch railroad line runs to Malchik, but does not go beyond that city. Once the train arrives at Malchik station, the locomotive is detached and is moved to a turntable where it is turned around. There are three tracks at the railroad station. The locomotive passes along one of the extra tracks and attaches itself to the former rear car of the train. Generally only passenger trains of about 12 cars using a small locomotive came to Malchik. If a freight car is used, it is brought to the city station and placed on a siding to be loaded and to wait for the next train out. Incidentally, the key railroad junction station in the area is called Prohladnaya, which is about 50 miles northeast of Malchik. Four or five main railroad lines meet there. Special official trains and freight cars destined for Malchik come from Prohladnaya.

50X1-HUM

The railroad station area is surrounded by a wire fence about four feet high. There are also special railroad station police.

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- 5 -

Two trains per 24 hours run between Prohladnaya and Nalchik. They make five one-way trips per 24 hours. The trains are of the passenger type and, if there are freight cars, they are merely attached to the main train.

50X1-HUM

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22.

there was no airport in the city, nor was there any airport nearby.

23.

The only means of public transportation in Nalchik were busses. The destination was shown in letters on the front of the bus, much as it is done in the US. There were about five bus routes:

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- (a) The line between Nalchik and the Pedagogical Institute utilized only one bus which was blue in color and used gasoline for fuel. It ran about every 30 minutes. There was no conductor, only the one driver, and the bus held about 24 passengers. The fare was 15 kopecks, paid as the passenger entered. The driver gave a ticket in return. This ticket was made of soft paper and had printed on it "Proezhal Billet - 30s - 15 kopeik." This fare was lower than the average on other routes since the bus was normally utilized by students. However, anyone could ride the bus and pay this rate.
- (b) A bus ran to the resort of Dalinskaya, which was about five miles south of Nalchik. This line used two busses. Dalinskaya was a students' and workers' resort. A bus ran about every 30 minutes and the fare was 30 kopecks. Incidentally, all the busses in Nalchik were of the same color and same type.
- (c) The bus line to Baksan employed two busses. Baksan was about 25 miles north of Nalchik. A bus to that location ran about every two hours. A large power station, utilizing water power from the Baksan River, was located at Baksan.
- (d) There was a bus line to Piatigorsk, a resort 50 miles northwest of Nalchik. Two busses were used and a bus left Nalchik twice a day for this resort.
- (e) Busses ran from the railroad station to the center of Nalchik. Three busses were used on this route and the fare was about 20 kopecks. Bus rates were not cheap in Nalchik, when one considers the wage scale of the workers. In practice, the citizens of Nalchik, when they were in the city, walked. There were no taxis and the only automobiles were used by government agencies.

50X1-HUM

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4.

Nalchik is a resort town with mineral waters in the vicinity. The principal enterprises of Nalchik were as follows:

- (a) There was a very large meat producing plant (manufacturing canned meats, sausages, etc), about one mile northeast of the city called Meat Kombinat. This was the largest enterprise in Nalchik and employed about 500 workers.
- (b) The Konditarskaya Fabrika (candy plant) was located on Kabardinskaya Ulitsa about five blocks east of the park on the north side of the street. It employed about 60 workers. Some of the free workers in the Molybdenovaya Fabrika (see number 16(b)) lived in Nalchik.
- (c) The government agencies in Nalchik employed quite a few people.
- (d) The peasant population which tilled the soil did not live in the city, but in the nearby villages.
- (e) There were about 200 construction workers in Nalchik engaged in building apartments, of two or three stories, and office buildings. New construction was in progress, or at least until June 1941, and the city tended to spread northwestward.
- (f) Quite a few of the city's inhabitants were employed in various stores (food, clothing, hardware) in the 10 government restaurants and in the three hotels.
- (g) Street cleaners, janitors, park workers, street maintenance personnel, sports stadium maintenance personnel were also employed by the government.

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50X1-HUM

- 6 -

- (h) The hospital employed a total of about 200 persons including doctors and nurses. The hospital was on Stepnaya Ulitsa in the western part of the city.
- (i) There were numerous students in Malchik. The Pedagogical Institute, which had four-year courses and which was entered after finishing a 10-year school, qualified graduates to be teachers in the seventh through tenth grades. The Pedagogical Rabfak (Labor Faculty) was the equivalent of the seventh through tenth grades, qualified graduates to be teachers in the first through fourth grades. The total student enrollment in these three institutions (Pedagogical Institute, Pedagogical Rabfak, and Pedagogical Technicum) consisted of about one thousand. The Medical Technicum, which was in the next block to the hospital, (also on Stepnaya Ulitsa, north of the hospital), trained village doctors and veterinarians. That is, the student after completing the seven-year school, took one year of preparatory work, and then attended the Medical Technicum for three years. The graduates were not considered MDs with a university education.
- (j) Another category of inhabitants in Malchik were the soldiers. For their number see question number 17.
- (k) There were two Internats or orphanages, in which 50 young people were housed. They attended various schools in the city.
- (l) The Khudozhnitsvini Gorodskoi Teatr (City Theater) had a professional staff of about 50 and the theater school, which was located next to it, had an enrollment of about two hundred.

50X1-HUM

A hydroelectric power station, located in the western portion of the park on the Malchik River, provided power for part of the city. Factories, such as Krasn Kombinat, received their power from the hydroelectric station at Baksan, which was the largest in the autonomous republic, and [redacted] provided power for areas outside of the republic also. It was located on the river Baksan and a high voltage line was strung to Malchik. Power from the Baksan station was also used for local electric trains.

50X1-HUM

Electric current was turned on and off by the city authorities and not by the individual home dweller. It was usually just turned on during the hours of darkness. If a resident wished light, he would merely screw the bulb in all the way. Frequently, of course, the current would not be available, particularly if the Malchik River was fairly dry or frozen. Only in 1936 or 1937 were electric lines strung to the surrounding villages.

Electric lights did burn dimly at times. Also, if one went to the cinema, the power would occasionally be interrupted and it might be hours before the picture could be resumed, if at all that night.

[redacted] there was no rationing in Malchik in the sense of having coupons for obtaining items. However, people were limited as to the quantities of items, such as bread, which they could obtain. In regard to clothing, such as a woman's suit, it was very hard to buy because of the shortage of cloth as well as the expense.

50X1-HUM

[redacted] there was practically no sugar available. When there was some sugar, someone had to stand in line many hours to obtain it. No coupons were needed, but only two pounds per family per six months were given out. In 1942, bread was one and a half kilograms. One had to go to a certain store in his district to get the bread and one was given only a certain amount. [redacted] 600 grams per working person per day was the quota, and for persons who did not work, the figure was 400 grams. During 1942, meat was usually unavailable except in the government restaurants in Malchik, where it was extremely expensive.

50X1-HUM

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50X1-HUM

31.

[REDACTED]

In general, there were no black market activities. Because of the lack of consumer goods, each person had to use what he had for himself.

32.

[REDACTED]

In the event of isolated cases of black market activities, the penalty was extremely serious, as a black marketeer who was apprehended was considered an "economic enemy of the people".

33.

[REDACTED]

Local farmers would come to the market square in Malchik. Generally, they could sell only vegetables, such as potatoes, and dairy products, such as eggs. If they did not live too far away they walked to market, carrying their produce. Otherwise, they came by train, occasionally by bus. They usually ate their own food, which they brought with them, right in the market square, and usually would go back home the same day, because of the expense of staying overnight in a hotel. Of course, if they had relatives in the town, they might stay with them. Police were always in evidence in the market square, as the peasants were allowed to sell only the items mentioned above, in addition to any household goods which they might be able to spare. This latter did not occur often. Before selling anything, the peasant had to buy a ticket from the police in the market square, costing about two or three rubles, which constituted permission to sell. A piece of soft paper was torn out from a book by the policeman who stamped it. The stamp indicated date, et. The peasant had to pay for the ticket, whether he was able to sell anything or not.



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50X1-HUM

- 9 -

Labor

40.

50X1-HUM

Local enterprises without any political significance, as the meat plant, could freely recruit workers. However, if one was a member of a family of which at least one person had been exiled, it was difficult to find work, as one was on the list of the NKVD. It must be remembered that before obtaining any work, a prospective employee had to fill out a form giving autobiographical data. This form had to be witnessed by three persons, one of them a CP member.

41.

The individual is obliged to obtain official release from one job before taking a new one. He must get permission from his initial employer and also a character reference, which consists usually of a statement that he was a good worker and politically reliable.

42.

If a local plant had importance outside the autonomous republic, such as the Myslo Kombinat, the products of which went throughout the Soviet Union as well as to the Soviet Armed Forces, then such a plant was controlled from the appropriate ministry in Moscow. On the other hand, if the plant was a local minor one, then it was controlled from Nalchik.

43.

The labor regulation in force in Nalchik were the same as those in other cities in the USSR.

44.

The average wage earner in Nalchik was paid little, considering the high cost of living. The average skilled worker was given no more than 200 or 250 rubles per month and about 40 per cent of his wages per month went to pay for such things as taxes and insurance. All the remaining wages had to be spent for living costs. Although banks were available, practically no deposits were made there by private individuals as savings were impossible.

Social Life

45.

A new arrival in Nalchik must do the following things in order to get settled legally:

- a. He must carry with him his internal passport.
- b. He must register at the Otdel Militii (local police). 50X1-HUM  
same place as the passport office on Kabardinskaya Ulitsa. that is at the
- c. He would then go to look at one of the bulletin boards in town, called Doska Obiavlenie, which carried all sorts of information such as available rooms, articles for sale, articles lost or found, etc. Such bulletin boards were located in three places in Nalchik:

- (1) At the edge of the park near Kabardinskaya Ulitsa.
- (2) In the market square on Stepnaya Ulitsa. 50X1-HUM
- (3) On the corner of Respublikanskaya Ulitsa and Pochtovaya Ulitsa.

- d. The new arrival, with some luck, should be able to find one room. Living conditions were crowded in Nalchik. 50X1-HUM  
an apartment, which means one room and one kitchen, rented for about 40 or 50 rubles per month. If the arrival rented a room or apartment in a fairly sizeable apartment building, he would have to

SECRET/US OFFICIALS ONLY/SECURITY INFORMATION

- 10 -

50X1-HUM

50X1-HUM

...the house-book administered by the House Committee (Domovoi Komitet). If it were a small dwelling, there would probably be no house-book to sign.

An arrival in the city must inform the police if he is to stay there for more than one week. The Militii lists the arrival and departure in each city by making an entry on the passport. The arrival must explain the purpose of his coming to the city and must have with him, from the local authorities of his previous location, a certificate or Udostoverenie that he was coming to Malchik to work. This certificate would be issued by the Gorsovet (Gorodskoi Sovet-City Soviet) and also by his former employer. His departure from another city would be inscribed by the local police on his passport. If the new arrival came from a village, then he would have a certificate from the Selsovet (Selskoi Sovet - Village Soviet) signed by four officials. The four signatures would be the Predsedatel of the Selsovet, the Predsedatel of the Kolkhoz, The Secretary of the Partkomitet (Communist Party Committee) and by the Technical Secretary. The Technical Secretary is the clerk making out the certificate, who would be an employee of either the Kolkhoz or the Selsovet.

There were three government hotels in Malchik:

(a) The largest one was located on the square near the park and the city stadium. It took up one block, had four floors and was of stone, painted a tan color. Anyone could stay there, but it was expensive - about six rubles per night. The hotel personnel registered the visitor with the local police as well as entering his name on the hotel register, and held his passport while he was in the hotel.

(b) Another large hotel was the "Intourist" located on Danilinskaya Ulitsa, across the street from the stadium. As the name indicates, it usually catered to tourists but was open to all. It cost about four rubles per night. This hotel was of brick, painted a light green, and had three stories.

(c) There was also a hotel near the railroad station, across the square from the station. It was quite small - two stories, brick, painted white. It was open to all and cost about two rubles per night.

None of these hotels had weekly rates.

In regard to the city's tearooms, there were outdoor tearooms open only in the summer, in the park and on Kabardinskaya Ulitsa. Tea and ice cream were served. As everywhere else, the tearooms were under police surveillance. The police would normally just walk by, but if the place were open after 9 or 10 pm, they would walk in.

In regard to living quarters for various groups: in the city there were no separate areas for different types of personnel. However, there were workers' quarters near the Mysa Kombinat. Most of the more important government employees lived in the west part of Kabardinskaya Ulitsa. These were the Communist Party members. The average family had an apartment which consisted of one room and one kitchen.

The average person in Malchik did not have a telephone in his home. Communist Party officials had phones in their homes and there were telephones in offices, schools, and factories. There were no public telephones on the street, although there was one in the railroad station.

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SECRET/US OFFICIALS ONLY/SECURITY INFORMATION

50X1-HUM

- 11 -

with malaria. There were about six or seven people in one room. It was clean and there appeared to be enough doctors and nurses. The hospital was modern, built in about 1934, and had good equipment and laboratories.

52.

Anyone could use the facilities of the hospital. There was no charge.

53.

For information on the Pedagogical Institute, see No 24 above. In regard to the other institutions of higher learning, except for the Medical Technicum, which was also mentioned in No 24 there were two trade schools, called Remeslinii Uchilishi, where pupils were taught a trade for one year. They went there after finishing the fifth or sixth grade. There were eight high schools, or 10-year schools, in Nalchik. They were identified by numbers, one through eight, but some had names such as Sredneva Shkola Nomer 7 Imeni Krupskaya.

No 2 school - located just outside Nalchik, between the city and the Pedagogical Institute.

No 3 - near the Medical Technicum, on Stepnaya Ulitsa.

No 4 - on Respublikanskaya Ulitsa

No 5 - also on Respublikanskaya Ulitsa

No 7 - on Kabardinskaya Ulitsa

No 8 - near the railroad station

Each 10-year school had a laboratory, but there were no separate research institutes or laboratories.

50X1-HUM

54.

There was one theater. See No 24 above for location and name. The program, as far as the plays went, changed once a week. Operas were also given about once every two months. Tickets were expensive, ranging from two to seven rubles. Students were allowed to attend free once a month.

(a) Outdoor concert stands: five or six of these were located in the park and attendance was free.

(b) One concert hall, located in the theater school building. A concert was given about once every two months. Tickets were two rubles, but concerts given at graduation time were free. The music school was located in the theater school building.

(c) There were two cinemas. Tickets were from 50 to 75 kopecks. Children under 12 paid 25 kopecks. People did not go often as they could not afford to. One of the theaters was on the corner of Kabardinskaya and Pochtovaya streets. The other was in the sports stadium. The program changed once a week.

50X1-HUM

55.

Most of the inhabitants of Nalchik are Mohammedans. All the mosques, locally called Metchet, were destroyed by the Communists. Of course, local officials of Russian descent were not Mohammedans. Also about 15 percent of the population were Jews, and of these Jews about 30 percent were Mohammedans. The people of Nalchik were very religious. There were no Catholics or Protestants in Nalchik, nor were there any monasteries or seminaries.

56.

There was no friction between the various religious groups.

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ENCLOSURE (A): Sketch of the City of Nalchik

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